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ACTION

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P R 251132Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5338
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3913
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2260
AMCONSUL DANANG 188
CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Lisa Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON (S)
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. WITH ELECTION DAY ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ONE WEEK AWAY, CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY BY CANDIDATES REACHING PEAK LIKELY TO SUSTAINED THROUGH MID-DAY SEPTEMBER 2 WHEN CAMPAIGN FORMALLY ENDS. IN ADDITION TO OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE AVAILING THEMSELVES OF EVERY FREE MOMENT TO PURSUE CONTACTS WITH PRESS AND VOTERS IN GENERAL. UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN MORE ACTIVE, TOO, AND

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THERE HAS BEEN STRONG REACTION BY SOME SLATES TO REPORTS THAT GVN HAS SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED SIX UPPER HOUSE TICKETS.

2. ELECTION NEWS NOW DOMINATES FRONT PAGES OF VIRTUALLY

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EVERY SAIGON NEWSPAPER. AUGUST 25 EDITION OF CHINH LUAN, FOR EXAMPLE, HEADLINES DISPATCH OF US OBSERVERS TO VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS. ALSO FEATURED ARE PREMIER KY'S REMARKS, REPORTEDLY MADE IN AN GIANG ON AUGUST 24, TO EFFECT THAT IF TRUONG DINH DZU ELECTED, HE (KY) WILL BUILD CAGE FOR HIM IN INDEPENDENCE PALACE. (THIS IS A REFERENCE TO A 1963 LETTER FROM DZU TO DIEM IN WHICH DZU REPORTEDLY CALLED HIMSELF A DOG AND A HORSE AND BEGGED DIEM'S FORGIVENESS.) KY ALSO QUOTED AS URGING HIS AUDIENCE TO EXERCISE CAUTION IN CASTING BALLOTS ON ELECTION DAY LEST WRONG MAN BE ELECTED "CAUSING INCREASED MISERY FOR ENTIRE COUNTRY."

3. SAME EDITION OF CHINH LUAN ALSO FRONT PAGES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PHAN KHAC SUU AND PHAN QUANG DAN IN WHICH DN STATES THAT, IF THIEU AND KY WERE TO STEP DOWN FROM OFFICE VOLUNTARILY, IT WOULD BE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ELECTIONS. DAN AND SUU ALSO CONFIRMED TO CHINH LUAN REPORTER THAT THEY HAD

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RECENTLY HAD "FRIENDLY MEAL" WITH BUDDHIST YOUTHLEADER THICH THIEN MINH "TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW ON THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS." ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT OME POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS GROUP MIGHT SOON ISSUE COMMUNIQUE REQUESTING THIEU AND KY TO STEP DOWN FROM OFFICE, DR. DAN REPLIED THAT HIS LIST WANTS MORE TIME TO CONSIDER MATTER BEFORE SUPPORTING ANY SUCH COMMUNIQUE.

4. ALSO REPORTED ON FRONT PAGE OF CHINH LUAN IS ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' VISIT TO RACH GIA AUGUST 24, VISIT TO DANANG BY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HOANG CO BINH ON AUGUST 23, DENIAL BY THUA THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF OF ACCUSATIONS THAT HA THUS KY'S PARTY WORKERS BEING HARASSED, AND PROTEST BY 24 UPPER HOUSE LISTS AGAINST REPORTED GVN ENDORSEMENTOF SLATES 2, 4, 5, 8, 30, AND 32. REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE 24 SLATES HELD MEETING EVENING AUGUST 24 AFTER WHICH COMMUNIQUE ISSUED CALLING ON GVN TO CEASE ACTIVITES DESIGNED TO "RIG" ELECTIONS
IN FAVOR OF ABOVE-MENTIONED SIX SLATES
AND LABELING ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES AS DICTATORIAL AND HARMFUL TO ANTI-COMMUNIST CAUSE. SPOKESMAN FOR DISCONTENTED UPPER

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HOUSE CANDIDATES IS NGUYEN TUONG DA, LEADER OF SLATE 37.

5. CHINH LUAN'S EDITORIAL PAGE CARRIES LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH

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UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATE TRAN VAN DON UNDER HEADING "A LIBERAL MAN WOULD LIKE TRAN VAN DON." (THIS FAVORABLE TREATMENT NOT SURPRISING SINCE CHINH LUAN PUBLISHER DR. DANG VAN SUNG IS RUNNING ON DON'S LIST.) THERE IS ALSO EDITORIAL ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO VIET NAM WAR.

6. IN SUM, PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITYAND DISCUSSION AS REFLECTED IN JUST ONE EDITION OF RESPECTED SAIGON DAILY HAS REACHED ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL PROVIDING VIVID CONTRAST NOT ONLY TO DIEM ERA BUT ALSO TO RECENT PAST.

BUNKER

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